

Claims:

What is claimed is:

5 1. A workflow integration system for a collaboration system that allows for sharing of workflow information between collaboration participants, comprising:
a collaboration server having stored thereon an enterprise workflow;
a workflow server having stored thereon a participant workflow; and,
10 an integration mechanism for allowing said enterprise workflow and said participant workflow to interact with one another.

15 2. The workflow integration system of claim 1 wherein the enterprise workflow includes workflow process information for an enterprise project including two or more participants.

20 3. The workflow integration system of claim 1 wherein the participant workflow includes workflow process information for a project local to the participant.

25 4. The workflow integration system of claim 1 wherein the enterprise workflow and the participant workflow may interact through the exchange of XML data.

 5. The workflow integration system of claim 1 wherein the enterprise workflow includes at least one process flow lane for each active

participant, and the action of the workflow is determined by messages sent to and received from each of said active participants or a process flow lane of said active participant.

5 6. The workflow integration system of claim 5 wherein the enterprise workflow sends and receives messages directly from the participant.

10 7. The workflow integration system of claim 5 wherein the enterprise workflow sends and receives messages from the participant workflow.

15 8. The workflow integration system of claim 7 wherein the enterprise workflow sends and receives messages from the participant workflow via a collaboration enabler authorized to communicate with the collaboration sever.

20 9. The workflow integration system of claim 1 wherein said integration mechanism allows the enterprise workflow to modify an active participant workflow process.

25 10. The workflow integration system of claim 1 wherein said integration mechanism allows the participant workflow to modify an active enterprise workflow process.

11. A method for integrating workflows in a collaboration system, comprising the steps of:

storing an enterprise workflow on a collaboration server;
storing a participant workflow on a participant server; and,
providing an integration mechanism for allowing said enterprise
workflow and said participant workflow to interact with one another.

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12. The method of claim 11 wherein the enterprise workflow
includes workflow process information for an enterprise project including two
or more participants.

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13. The method of claim 11 wherein the participant workflow
includes workflow process information for a project local to the participant.

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14. The method of claim 11 including interacting communicating
workflow information between the enterprise workflow and the participant
workflow through the exchange of XML data.

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15. The method of claim 11 wherein the enterprise workflow
includes at least one process flow lane for each active participant, and the
action of the workflow is determined by messages sent to and received from
each of said active participants or a process flow lane of said active
participant.

16. The method of claim 15 including sending messages to and
from the enterprise workflow directly to the participant.

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17. The method of claim 15 including sending messages to and
from the enterprise workflow to the participant workflow.

18. The method of claim 17 including sending and receives messages between the enterprise workflow and the participant workflow via a collaboration enabler authorized to communicate with the collaboration sever.

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19. The method of claim 11 including allowing the enterprise workflow to modify an active participant workflow process.

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20. The method of claim 11 including allowing the participant workflow to modify an active enterprise workflow process.

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